

We, also, have National Guard, Reserve and Active-Duty veterans coming back in droves to America without sufficient help for their health care and certainly not their education.

If we want real security, we must rebuild the U.S. military and ensure it remains the best fighting force in the world. S. 8 is at the desk.

S. 9 will secure America by undertaking comprehensive immigration reform. I had friends and colleagues, staff, ask: Why are you bringing up this controversial subject on the first day of Congress? It has to be brought up. Immigration is a problem that affects this Nation. Last year, we passed a solid immigration bill in the Senate. There are parts of that bill I didn't like, but we passed a bill. Unfortunately, it fell victim to politics, again in the other body. Immigration reform is too vital to our security and our economy to fall by the wayside, so we must deal with it again this year. Our immigration system is broken. Does anyone dispute this? Our borders remain unsecured. Does anyone dispute that? Our laws remain underenforced. Does anyone dispute that? Does anyone dispute the fact that we have 11 million people with bad papers who are here illegally? Does anyone dispute that? No. So our bill will take a comprehensive approach to repairing this broken system. With tough and smart reforms, it will secure our borders, crack down on enforcement, and lay down a path to earned legalization for undocumented immigrants already living here. There is no amnesty. If there were ever an example of the need for bipartisanship, it is on immigration because it is going to be hard, but it is something that we have to do. S. 9 is at the desk.

Finally, S. 10 will reinstate pay-as-you-go rules to the budget process. This does not sound very politically sexy, to talk about pay as you go. But as most know, the Senate used to operate under a rule called pay as you go. This simple proposition demanded that when we increased spending or cut taxes we had to pay for it. It is a commonsense principle families all across America practice when they balance their checkbooks. Pay-go was in place in the Senate in the 1990s, when our country experienced unprecedented levels of economic growth and vitality. Remember, it can be done. In the last years of the Clinton administration, we paid down the national debt by almost a half trillion dollars. Unfortunately, the rule disappeared in recent years and the results have been disastrous: \$9 trillion in debt; the largest deficits, of course, in our history; foreign debt that has more than doubled, giving unprecedented control to countries such as Saudi Arabia and China. We are even borrowing money from Mexico. These countries should not have the unprecedented control of our economic destiny. We are facing a fiscal nightmare that will not go away this Congress, and it will handicap our ability in all we need to do in so many different

areas. With pay-go in place, we will begin to set America on the right track.

I have been in Congress going on 25 years. In my 25 years, I witnessed many fine moments in our Senate's history. But I believe in my State, in the Senate, and in the House, the days following 9/11 are what America is all about. It was a national tragedy, but it brought out the best in us, the best in Members of Congress, the best in the American people. Democrats and Republicans from all over America put aside our differences and worked with the administration to protect our country. That day showed the Government working as the Founders intended. This year we must work on the same bipartisan basis, the same fashion.

It should not take a national tragedy for us to work together. We should be equally united by our ability to make a positive difference in the lives of the people who sent us here. Today is that beginning. This year let us work side by side and succeed together.

The future lies with those wise political leaders who realize the great public is interested more in government than politics.

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1940.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PRYOR). The Republican leader.

THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have heard my good friend, the majority leader, describe the first 10 bills of the majority in the new Congress. I would say for the information of all of our colleagues, the procedure in the Senate Republican conference is for the conference itself to designate our first 10 bills. We will be doing that at a meeting to occur in the next few weeks. We have essentially reserved the numbers S. 11 through S. 20 which will reflect our priorities for this Congress.

Let me say at the outset, before giving my opening remarks, how much I value the friendship and relationship I have with the distinguished majority leader. I believe we had an excellent session this morning in the old Senate Chamber, and we look forward to getting off to a good start.

Today is the 110th time in our Nation's history that we begin a new session of Congress. This is a day to renew our purpose, to set a sturdy course for the important work ahead, and to ask ourselves: What will future generations say of the 110th Congress? This is the first day of that Congress. What will they say of us on the last day?

The Senate has a unique role in our Government. It always has. It is a place where the two great political parties must work together if a common goal is to be reached. It is the legisla-

tive embodiment of individual and minority rights, a place where the careful design, crafted by our Founding Fathers, pretty much operates today the way they planned it 220 years ago.

We saw this 43 years ago with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, when the two parties forged a difficult alliance to reach a great goal. Segregated buses and lunch counters are difficult to fathom now, but their end only came about through the kind of cooperative resolution that has marked this body from the start.

At its best, the Senate is a workshop where difficult challenges, such as civil rights, are faced squarely—and addressed—with good will and careful, principled agreement. At a time such as our own, when so many issues of consequence press upon us, it must be nothing less.

Yet the challenges ahead will not be met if we do nothing to overcome the partisanship that has come to characterize this body over the past several years. A culture of partisanship over principle represents a grave threat to the Senate's best tradition as a place of constructive cooperation. It undermines the spirit and the purpose of this institution, and we must do something to reverse its course.

The Senate can accomplish great things over the next 2 years, but this opportunity will surely slip from our grasp if we do not commit ourselves to a restoration of civility and common purpose. So as we open this session, I stake my party to a pledge: When faced with an urgent issue, we will act; when faced with a problem, we will seek solutions, not mere political advantage.

The Framers thought a lot about the kind of people who would sit behind these desks on the floor and they set down some simple rules. Senators should be older than their House colleagues. They should serve longer terms, and proportional representation ensures that all States have an equal say, regardless of size. The Senate was also conceived to be a place of civil debate and good will.

Mike Mansfield showed grace and humility in his efforts to expand civil rights. Working with Republicans to offset resistance in his own party, he guided passage of the great Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s and even let a Republican take the credit. In fact, today the name Everett Dirksen may actually be better known, but historians know better.

Mansfield's collegial spirit didn't just surface when it served his purposes. Historians tell us his first appointment each day was breakfast with Senator George Aiken, a Republican from Vermont. The two men met when one of Aiken's aides spotted Mansfield alone, pushing a tray down the cafeteria line in the Capitol. She asked the new Senator if he wanted to join her and her boss for lunch, and he did. The two men remained close friends for 25 years. A small act of kindness set the tone.